

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05

IGA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /080 W

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R 070616Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2918

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR

CINCNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASFR BAHRAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1941

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CINCNAVEUR TO KUWAIT

1. ADMIRAL HAROLD SHEAR, CINCNAVEUR, PAID 24-HOUR VISIT TO KUWAIT MAY 5-6. ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE AND DOD REP, ADMIRAL PAID ONE-HALF HOUR COURTESY VISIT ON GOK MIND EF SHAIKH SA'D. CONVERSATION WAS GENERAL IN NATURE AND FRIENDLY.

2. MINISTER MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) GOK REMAINS CONCERNED WITH USG FAILURE TO MEET DELIVERY SCHEDULES FOR AUTOMATIVE/ENGINEER EQUIPMENT; B) HE PLEASED WITH PROGRESS ON A-4 PROGRAM; C) DISCUSSIONS WITH HMG RE PURCHASE CHIEFTAIN TANKS REMAIN INCONCLUSIVE AND DECISION MUST BE MADE SOON -- GOK WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST LATEST INFO RE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF M-60 A-1 (DOD REP PROMISED TO SUPPLY AND CHARGE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD DEPARTED FOR US ON HOME LEAVE, ALSO HAD PROMISED MAKE INQUIRIES); AND, D) GOK REMAINED INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF US PATROL CRAFT EQUIPPED WITH HARPOON.

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3. LATTER SUBJECT RAISED BY MINISTER, WHO SAID THAT DECISION

MUST BE MADE SOON BY GOK. OFFERS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM FRANCE AND UK, BOTH FOR CRAFT EQUIPPED WITH OBSOLESCEMENT FRENCH MISSILE SYSTEM. GOK VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN RECEIVING INFO RE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF US ASHVILLE CLASS PG, EQUIPPED WITH HARPOON. ADMIRAL SHEAR CAREFULLY AVOIDED MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS, NOTING THAT HE FAMILIAR WITH BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH WEAPONS SYSTEMS WHICH WERE EXCELLENT. (CHARGE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AT HIS HOME FROM GOK COL SAYEGH WHO SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MINISTER TO PREPARE WRITTEN REQUEST TO EMBASSY SEEKING ADVICE RE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY ASHVILLE PC WITH HARPOON. GOK OFFICIAL STRESSED URGENCY MINDEF PLACED ON OBTAINING EARLY RESPONSE FROM USG, WHETHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE). ADMIRAL FORWARDING MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT ABOVE MEETING THROUGH DOD CHANNELS.

5. ADMIRAL APPEARED PLEASED WITH VISIT TO KUWAIT, WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES WAS BOTH USEFUL AND WELL-RECEIVED BY GOK OFFICIALS. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, ADMIRAL SHEAR VOLUNTEERED TO AGAIN CONSULT WITH HIMG OFFICIALS RE BRITISH PRACTICE OF DISPLAYING FOREIGN FLAGS ON WARSHIPS DURING PORT VISITS. HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE ARRIVE AT SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE WITH GOK ON FLAG ISSUE AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR EMBASSY CONSIDERATION.

6. DURING COURTESY CALL ON MINDEF, CHARGE NOTED URGENCY OF OBTAINING GOK RESPONSE TO DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESSINGER'S PROPOSED EXCHANGE ON SECURITY. MINISTER PROMISED TO REVIEW MATTER ASAP.
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